



# NAVY NEWS



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Forward ... from the Sea

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## STA-21 Improves Sailors' Career Opportunities

*By Chief of Naval Education and Training Public Affairs*

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — The new officer accession program, Seaman to Admiral-21 (STA-21), is making it easier than ever for Sailors to make the transition from enlisted to officer while earning college degrees. The program eliminates the inequities between commissioning pipelines. Previous officer programs varied greatly in the amount of pay and educational benefits available to Sailors.

STA-21 streamlines the application process by consolidating eight of 14 commissioning paths by using a single application. There is one application deadline and one selection board. Under STA-21, Sailors remain in an active-duty status while participating; they draw full pay, allowances and benefits, and receive an education voucher valued at up to \$10,000 per year for tuition, fees and book costs.

STA-21 is structured to produce 490 officers annually, which is comparable to the number of Sailors commissioned through the eight former commissioning paths it replaces. Participants in the new program will attend Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC)-affiliated colleges or universities after gaining admission.

College preparation courses and officer indoctrination programs tailored to Sailors' needs are incorporated into this pipeline. The Naval Science Institute begins transforming enlisted personnel to officers in an eight-week program that provides professional courses and reduces the college workload by 18 hours — allowing Sailors to graduate and return to the fleet as officers, one semester early.

When used in conjunction with credits received from the Navy College Program, the STA-21 program can dramatically reduce the time necessary

to earn a degree and a Navy commission. The selection board will evaluate the background of STA-21 selectees and identify those who will benefit from a college preparatory program to attend the new Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training school in Newport, R.I., for a three-to six-month individualized remediation program.

The STA-21 program was created to place a college degree and enhanced career opportunities within reach of today's Sailors.

STA-21 combines the following eight former commissioning paths: NROTC two-year, four-year, and Nurse option; Enlisted Commissioning Program Basic, Aviation option, Nuclear option and Civil Engineer Corps option; and the original Seaman to Admiral program.

For more information on the STA-21 program, go to [www.sta-21.navy.mil](http://www.sta-21.navy.mil); see NAVADMIN 128/01; or call (850) 452-4967/DSN 922, extension 313 or 337, or 1-800-NAV-ROTC; or by e-mail to [sta21@cnet.navy.mil](mailto:sta21@cnet.navy.mil).

## Say Cheese!



Journalist Seaman Brandon Rail photographs students from Tapinac Elementary School in Subic Bay, Philippines, after Sailors and Marines painted the school for a Community Relations (COMREL) project during the seventh annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2001 exercise on June 4, 2001. CARAT is a series of bilateral exercises that take place throughout the Western Pacific. The exercise aims to increase regional cooperation and promote interoperability between participating countries.

Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Erin A. Zocco

# CNO Addresses Senior Enlisted Leadership Panel

By CNO Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark recently discussed changes facing the Navy during the Spring 2001 Senior Enlisted Leadership Forum, and charged the panel with helping plan the way ahead for the Navy's enlisted force.

The senior enlisted panel, consisting of the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) and 41 fleet, force and CNO-directed command master chiefs representing every enlisted Sailor in the Navy, meets twice each year to address issues faced by the enlisted community.

While discussing his number one priority, manpower, Clark said retention is on the rise.

"I am amazed at how much we have been able to do in nine months," Clark said. "Our first-term reenlistment numbers are up over 10 points in the last year."

The CNO noted that since last year, when 49 percent of personnel eligible to reenlist did so, the numbers have increased

to more than 59 percent.

The CNO emphasized the importance of properly aligning what Sailors are told, with what is expected. "People in leadership positions must understand the power of their message and the message that we are sending inside the institution. That's what priority No. 5, the alignment piece, is all about. I'm really encouraged by what's been going on."

Addressing the first-term attrition rate of nearly 40 percent, the CNO explained how recruiting high-quality Sailors could reduce attrition.

"I tell recruiters that it isn't their job to have somebody come in to have a 20-year career," Clark said. "But they do have a responsibility to recruit people who have a high probability that they will make it through their first enlistment. That way when they get out they can tell the kind of story we need to have told out there where civilians live and grow up."

Clark explained what he tells people



Adm. Vern Clark

U.S. Navy photo

who are considering leaving the Navy after their enlistment ends. "I tell them, 'We would love for you to stay. But if you

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## 200-Question Advancement Exam to Premier with January 2002 Chief's Exam

By Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — A new 200-question enlisted advancement exam is coming to Navy test-takers everywhere, beginning with the cycle 174 chief petty officer's exam in January 2002. The Navy Advancement Center, which has been carefully preparing this new exam over the last six months, is reviewing and checking each step in the process to ensure a smooth transition from the original 150-question exam.

Changes to the exam include more questions covering professional military knowledge (PMK). Sailors will now be exposed to more PMK areas for study and in doing so, will be better able to prepare themselves as leaders and managers in addition to technically proficient individuals in their own rating.

As individuals advance in rank and

move into more supervisory and management-type positions, a greater emphasis will be placed on PMK. Therefore, petty officer 3rd class candidates (E-4) will notice the smallest change to the exam.

Third class petty officers will receive a test with 150 rating knowledge questions (15 more than in previous cycles) and 50 PMK questions. The 2nd class (E-5) exam will cover 135 rating knowledge questions and 65 PMK questions, while the 1st class (E-6) exam will have 115 rating knowledge questions and 85 PMK questions. The chief petty officer exam will have an even split of 100/100 exam questions.

The structure and format of the enlisted advancement system promotes the most qualified Sailors. Those who take the time to prepare themselves

early, as always, will go into the exam with a strong advantage.

As in previous cycles, the bibliography for advancement (BIBS) for each exam is posted on the Navy Advancement Center web site six months prior to the exam. Sailors visiting this site will find important information to help them prepare for their exam and be given the same references used by exam writers in developing the exams. Sailors can download a copy of their rating's particular Advancement Handbook, which provides additional insight into exam preparation for rating knowledge.

For more information on the Navy Advancement Center and the upcoming 200-question advancement exam, visit the NAC web site at

**[www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil](http://www.advancement.cnet.navy.mil)**

# Connie Sailors Stay Navy for More Than \$1 Million

By Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) Kevin Cullen, USS Constellation Public Affairs

USS CONSTELLATION, At Sea (NNS) — Scores of Sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Constellation* (CV 64) have been deciding to Stay Navy. As a result, the ship has disbursed more than \$1 million in selective reenlistment bonuses (SRBs) since getting underway March 16 for their current six-month deployment.

“The Navy has raised its bonus caps to encourage its Sailors to stick around,” said Navy Counselor 1st Class (AW) Steven Cullen, from Galt, Calif., of the career information office. This office provides Sailors information about the benefits of reenlisting.

A major incentive for reenlistment, the SRB has become even more enticing when “*Connie*” entered the Persian Gulf.

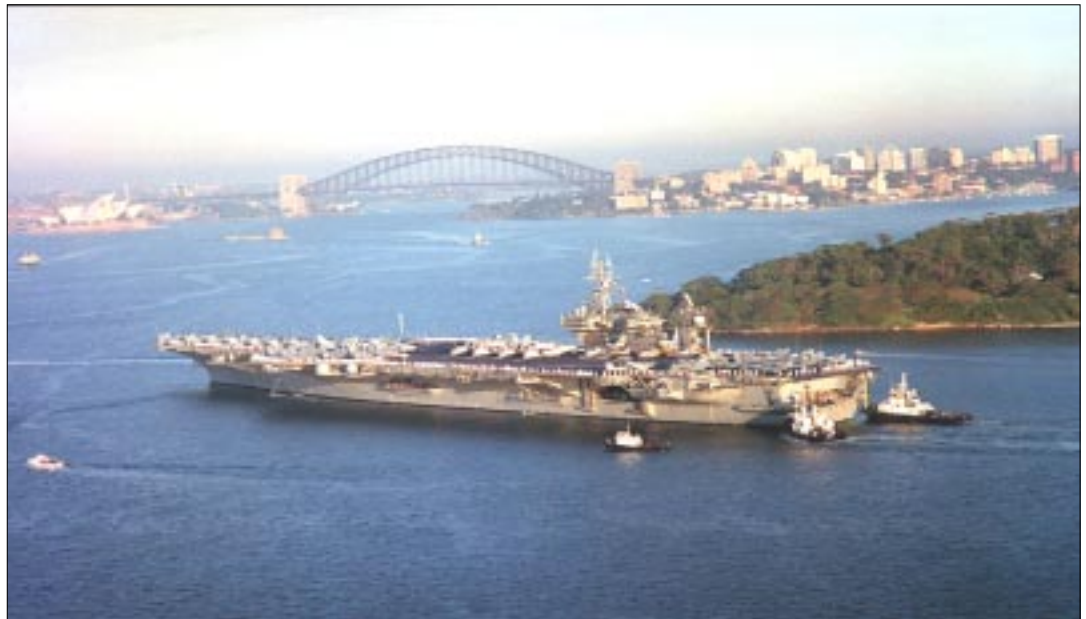
“In reality, the money has always been there,” said Cullen. “Until recently, no one has paid much attention to it. The fact that we’re in 5th Fleet’s area of operation sweetens the pot because the money is non-taxable.”

At the end of a Sailor’s enlistment, the Navy can sometimes provide incentives to stay on board by rewarding them financially. Sailors choosing to reenlist may be entitled to SRBs up to \$45,000.

Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW) Todd Hollier, who works in combat systems, has been in the Navy for 10 years. After signing on for another six, he received a whopping SRB of \$45,000, more than double the one he received for his last reenlistment.

“The money was really the icing on the cake,” said Hollier,

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USS *Constellation* (CV 64)

U.S. Navy photo

## Ecstasy is Not For You

By Journalist 1st Class (SW) Scott Sutherland, Naval Station San Diego Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) — Myth: Sailors who use ecstasy believe Navy drug screening labs don’t test for ecstasy. Fact: labs test every urine sample for it.

This is one of the many things Sailors learn about the “rave” drug, ecstasy, whenever they attend anti-drug training. The drug is so prevalent in society that many naval ships and stations have training specially tailored to ecstasy awareness.

Recently, USS *Constellation*’s (CV 64) Drug and Alcohol Prevention Advisors (DAPA) and representatives of its Counseling and Assistance Center (CAAC) held ecstasy awareness training for crewmembers. They presented five main objectives to the crew, all centered around

education and training about ecstasy, an amphetamine-based drug with hallucinogenic properties.

The objectives were:

- Identify the forms of ecstasy, how it is used, and who is abusing it;
- Explain the effects of ecstasy abuse;
- Cite the federal law and Navy policy concerning ecstasy;
- Cite ecstasy abuse health consequences;
- Identify behavioral and physical symptoms of ecstasy abuse.

The objectives are covered in the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Management Supervisors (ADAMS) facilitator training, a Navywide program given to all supervisors and seniors, E-5 to 0-4. DAPA’s Navywide instruction on drug and alcohol programs, OPNAVINST

5350.4C, states that commanding officers are encouraged to select qualified personnel for training and certification. ADAMS facilitator training is a five-day course followed by certification.

The DAPA representatives on “*Connie*,” Chief Aviation Storekeeper (AW/SW) Emmanuel Qualls and Senior Chief Machinist’s Mate (AW/SW) Donald Bell, agree that their main focus was simple — educating *Connie* Sailors about the harmful effects of ecstasy. Because of its hallucinogenic properties, ecstasy is harmful to the body. And due to the Navy’s zero tolerance against drugs of any kind, ecstasy is also equally harmful to your Navy career.

“If we can educate and train

See *Ecstasy*, page 5



**CNO, con't.** from pg. 2—

decide not to, more than anything else, I want this to be the greatest experience you ever had that you can tell all of your friends.”

The CNO used the two crews (Blue and Gold) of USS *Florida* (SSBN 728) as a good example of retention, saying that in the past year, only three USS *Florida* Sailors got out of the Navy.

“One got out to go to law school, one joined his father’s business, and one got out to go back to school to finish his master’s degree,” the CNO said. “The rule of the day on *Florida* is that the young person who reports aboard is a precious and a cherished resource. The two COBs (chiefs of the boat) there can’t wait to sit down with them and map out how they are going to grow and develop them on their tour on *Florida*. I don’t think it is any more complicated than that.”

Clark asked the force, fleet and CNO-directed CMCs to challenge all command master chiefs to evaluate the quality of people coming into the Navy today.

“When you get back, tell them the CNO said it’s a requirement for all command master chiefs to go to Great Lakes at least once a year,” Clark emphasized.

“There’s been a lot of talk about Generation ‘X’ and Generation ‘Y,’ but I’m convinced that all human beings are wired up in fundamentally the same way. Today’s young person is still motivated by the desire to make a difference, the desire to be valued, and the desire to feel like they are on a team,” the CNO continued. “In that regard, I don’t think they are one iota different than the way I was, or the way you were at that age.”

The CNO explained his views on how making Sailors feel like they are valuable members of the Navy starts with the way leaders should be evaluated.

“I want leaders evaluated first on their commitment to the mission and second on how they grow and develop their people,” Clark said. “We must have people focusing on the mission because if you don’t know what the mission is, you can’t commit to it. If you can’t commit to it, you can’t make a difference.”

The CNO said one of the biggest changes the Navy is facing is the difference between officers and enlisted personnel.

“When I was a lieutenant j.g., the differentiation between me and the chief was that I had about twice as much education as the chief. It’s dramatically different now,” Clark said.

The CNO said he plans to address these changes at the June 25-26 Worldwide CNO/MCPON Conference (WWCMC) for all NEC (naval enlisted classification) 9580 command master chiefs and NEC 9579 chiefs of the boat, in Dallas, Texas.

“Dallas is putting your money where your mouth is, that the future of our Navy is about the growth and development of our people,” Clark said.

“The question here is, how do we grow and develop the future leaders of our enlisted community? Answering that is what the WWCMC in Dallas is all about,” according to Clark. “It is about the kind of investment and mechanisms that our institution will put in place to grow and develop people so they can serve at higher levels. How do we equip

and empower the senior enlisted community and provide them opportunities to grow,” Clark said.

The CNO compared importance of the WWCMC to conferences held for senior flag officers.

“Senior enlisted leaders need to have the same kind of opportunities. The requirement for the conference is to plan what mechanisms and opportunities need to be put into place, so that we get the kind of product that our Navy needs,” Clark continued.

“The output of this forum is so important to laying the foundation for change in our Navy, that I expect every command master chief and chief of the boat possible to be in attendance,” Clark said. “I have asked the MCPON for feedback if this becomes a problem.”

## To Support and Defend



**Berton M. Breyette and Jon Marc P. Wright enlist in the U.S. Navy on board USS *O'Brien* (DD-975) by Commanding Officer Marcus B. Yonehiro. Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class Jennifer Y. Bell**

**Ecstasy, con't. from pg. 3**

our people about the effects of ecstasy," said Qualls, a native of Monroe, La., "then we could stop its abuse. We want to open Sailors' minds, and get the word out that drugs are not allowed in the Navy. We helped educate supervisors on how to look for ecstasy. If the supervisor sees a baby pacifier or athletic mouthpiece on a Sailor's necklace, it could get the supervisor thinking that there's a problem."

Ecstasy users are often seen with these items because users often involuntarily grind their teeth while under the drug's influence.

Within the past several years, there has been a rise in positive drug test results for ecstasy among U.S. service members. Within the Navy, there were 34 individuals identified as positive for ecstasy in FY98. By FY00, this number increased to 238 individuals.

Master At Arms 2nd Class (SW) Alfonso Cordova of Los Angeles runs *Connie's* urinalysis program. He said ecstasy has joined marijuana and cocaine as the most prevalent drugs that come up positive on samples sent to Navy Drug Screening Labs (NDSLs).

The drug, which can cost about \$45 a hit, or \$185 for five hits, is most popular in Europe and the United States, where it has for years fueled psychedelic "rave" parties where users bask in its effects, which are said to be deep relaxation, increased sensation, euphoria and feelings of closeness to others. Rave parties are frenzied affairs that play loud "techno" music with light shows, smoke, fog machines and fireworks. Raves often have heavy cover charges and high security to spot law enforcement officials.

Qualls said, "In the rave environment, the temptation of ecstasy will come down on you. I ask you, 'What is the attraction?' It's just like what we tell Sailors about liberty in Tijuana (Mexico). After dark, chances increase that something bad might happen."

"ADAMS training is for people in the first line of defense," Bell said. "Lots of *Connie* Sailors haven't had ADAMS. It's an awareness, education, prevention and deglamourization campaign."

*Connie's* CAAC representative, Chief Operations Specialist (SW) Douglas Brown of San Diego added, "If I was talking to a group of Sailors, my first point would be to explain that ecstasy is a form of

methamphetamine with hallucinogenic effects. It is, by nature, a dangerous chemical, capable of causing strokes, kidney damage and fatalities, even in first-time users."

Asked what they'd do if a Sailor comes across the quarterdeck on their watch, and the Sailor is wearing a baby pacifier or athletic mouthpiece, Qualls and Bell had two different answers.

Qualls said, "I'd hold him there, write down his name, and then pass the information on to his supervisor. By coming across the quarterdeck with drug paraphernalia, he just stereotyped himself."

"I'd ask him, 'What are you doing with a pacifier?'" said Bell. "It's the first common-

sense question to ask. His response would trigger a mechanism in me, and I could tell by his mannerisms that something's not quite right here. Then I'd bring it up to the command DAPA."

Last fall, former Constellation crewmember Lt. Cmdr. Robert Loeh was sentenced to 10 years in prison for selling ecstasy and other drugs to undercover officers.

"The Loeh case set no precedent, but it does set an example," said Qualls. "It's the same rule for everybody. No Sailor is exempt. 'Maybe *Connie* Sailors will take something positive from that.'"

For information on ecstasy awareness training, visit [navdweb.sparwar.navy.mil](http://navdweb.sparwar.navy.mil).

## Asian Pacific Heritage Month



**Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Paul Ena demonstrates the Samoan Warrior's Celebration Dance celebrating Asian Pacific Heritage Month on the mess decks aboard USS Essex (LHD 2) during Exercise Tandem Thrust 2001.**

**Photo by Photographer's Mate Airman (AW) Clover B. Christensen**



**Connie, con't. from pg. 3**

a native of Eunice, La. "I was going to reenlist anyway I already have everything I need." Hollier placed every nickel of his latest SRB into a retirement fund.

Cullen assures *Connie* Sailors that once they reenlist, they should not have to wait a long time to collect their SRBs. The turnaround time is normally eight to twelve days.

In addition to handing out some hefty checks, the career information office also provides a wealth of services to *Connie* Sailors who are rotating to different duty stations, getting out of the Navy, staying in the Navy, changing rates or going to schools.

"Basically, we are here for awareness — our job is to give our Sailors options," said Cullen.

"I love the Navy and I love what I'm doing," Cullen continued. "I believe wholeheartedly that there's something for everyone here. We hope that we can make it worth everyone's while to stay in."

For more information about Navy retention initiatives, go to [www.staynavy.navy.mil](http://www.staynavy.navy.mil).

More information about USS *Constellation* is available at [www.navy.mil/homepages/cv64](http://www.navy.mil/homepages/cv64).

## Washy, Washy



**Damage Controlman 3rd Class Jerry Jenko performs a post drill clean up on gas masks. Photo by Photographer's Mate Airman Phillip Nickerson**

## This Week on Navy/Marine Corps News

Look for the following stories and more on next week's Navy/Marine Corps News show:

- President Bush visits with Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

- Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Vern Clark, visits Jacksonville and Pensacola, Fla., to deliver some well-earned praise.

- New York City is the place to be as Sailors and Marines invade the Big Apple for Fleet Week.

- Sailors in Pearl Harbor help recreate history as they participate in the making of the movie "Pearl Harbor."

Compiled on tape #2001-24, the show is on its way to the fleet now.

## This Week in Naval History

- June 11, 1953: U.S. naval forces evacuate more than 20,000 Koreans from west coast islands north of the 38th parallel to safety in the south. This was to protect them from possible retribution from vengeful Communist soldiers.

- June 12, 1775: The first naval action of the American Revolution occurs when armed citizens of Machias, Maine, board and capture the British armed schooner *Margaretta* in Machias' harbor.

- June 13, 1867: The American sloop-of-war *Hartford* and Wyoming land a naval brigade of 181 Sailors and Marines on Formosa (present-day Taiwan). They attacked the aborigines in retaliation for the massacre of the crew of the American merchant ship *Rover*.

- June 14, 1945: U.S. Marines and soldiers break through Japan's final line of defense on the island of Okinawa. The Japanese fight as fiercely as ever, but it is clear the end of the battle is near.

- June 15, 1898: Gunfire from the battleship USS *Texas*, the cruiser USS *Marblehead* and auxiliary cruiser USS *Suwanee* destroy the Spanish fort at Caimanera on Guantanamo Bay during the Spanish-American War.

- June 16, 1953: The aircraft carrier USS *Princeton* (CVA 37) establishes a Korean War record by launching 184 sorties against enemy positions in a single day.

- June 17, 1898: The Navy Hospital Corps was established by an act of Congress as an organized unit under the Medical Department. The act established the warrant rank of pharmacist and three enlisted ratings: Hospital Steward (chief petty officer), Hospital Apprentice 1st Class (3rd class petty officer) and Hospital Apprentice.

Visit the Naval Historical Center web site at

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